(b) The literacy data in the country is collected through decennial census operation conducted by Registrar General of India. According to the last census held in 2001, the literacy rate of the country was 64.84%. Next data will be available in 2011.

(c) A revamped programme to impart functional literacy to non-literate adults in 15-35 age group is proposed to be implemented during the 11th Plan in which special emphasis is given for literacy of disadvantaged sections of the society including women so that the gender gap is to be reduced from 21.59% in 2001 to 10%.

Promotion of self reading habits under SSA

4050. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance and guidance being given to State Governments to promote early self-reading habits among the school children, as part of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; and

(b) the details of States which have set up their own Reading Development Cells, alongwith the number of schools where separate reading rooms were set up during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, promotion of early reading among school children is being supported amongst multiple strategies for enhancement of quality of elementary education. A programme for promoting reading in the early primary grades is being guided by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) wherein workshops and orientation meetings have been held in 11 States during 2007-08. Seven States have initiated activities for early reading under this initiative.

Expenditure under SSA

4051. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(b) the total number of students from minority communities enrolled under SSA, region, gender, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the details of teachers belonging to the minority communities recruited under SSA, religion, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Central funds expended under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 were Rs. 5139.75 crore, Rs. 7527.23 crore, Rs. 10848.35 crore and Rs. 11470.96 crore, respectively.

(b) Information on enrolment of Muslim children was collected through the District Information System on Education (DISE) for the first-time in September, 2006, of which the State-wise and gender-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) No separate data on religion of teachers recruited is maintained by the Central Government.